

## Performance Partnerships: Examples of Benefits 1996-2000

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• **Increased communication between EPA and States on priorities and other key issues**

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- ME: More frequent and less formal dialogue between program staff and regional staff have replaced written reports, saving time and improving the level of cooperation
- NJ: Annual Results-Based Management Workshops are held for managers and key technical staff to resolve issues for the next PPA period and elevate any unresolvable concerns to senior leadership in EPA Region and State
- R 1: EPA and State officials meet annually to discuss enforcement and compliance assistance priorities and opportunities for collaboration, in preparation for negotiating PPAs
- R 10: Annual meetings are held in each State with the EPA Regional Administrator, State Commissioner, and State and EPA senior program managers, to discuss mutual and individual priorities as well as issues and directions for the coming year and beyond
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• **Allowed States to shift resources to address priority needs and fund cross-cutting efforts that are difficult to support with traditional grants**

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- AK: Some CWA Sec. 319 grant funds have been used to support water quality management planning such as performing assessments and developing standards
- FL: Florida reduced pretreatment inspections and audits so they could direct resources toward higher priority tasks such as working with cities to develop approved pretreatment programs and directly regulating certain industrial users
- IL: Illinois supported pollution prevention and regulatory innovation programs through a 5.5% tap of Federal funds from each program
- IN: Through the PPA process, Indiana targeted cross-cutting priority issues, such as Children's Health
- MD: Maryland plans to tap a small percentage of funds from each program area to fund an Information Integration and Performance Measure Tracking Project
- ME: Support from the State legislature for pooling grant resources in a PPG was a precursor of gradual changes that provided greater flexibility under the State's performance budget
- NE: Nebraska used overmatched State funding for the water and air portions of the PPG to cover an undermatch for RCRA portion; \$60,000 was set aside for training activities
- NH: New Hampshire shifted some CWA Section 319 money to begin a bio-monitoring program for surface waters and to supplement wetlands initiatives
- OR: Based on data showing that Portland air emissions were being caused by area and mobile sources, Oregon shifted some resources away from air point sources to address them
- SC: South Carolina field staff can work on issues as needed because they are no longer force-fitted into categorical accounting requirements
- MO: Special State-identified cross-media initiatives are being funded through a 5% tap from the RCRA, water, air, and UST programs
- TX: After completing all negotiated work plan commitments, Texas has been able to use leftover funds to complete additional results-oriented activities focused on top environmental priorities as negotiated with EPA
- SD: PPG funds are supporting digital GIS mapping that will help South Dakota determine whether proposed facilities, such as animal feedlots, should be permitted
- WA: Some CWA Sec. 106 ground water funds are being used to support TMDL development

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- **Provided a way to support innovative or unique projects**

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- FL: PPA includes an initiative to identify problems and improve the quality of data provided by private labs
- MN: PPA and the new EPA working relationship has aided Minnesota's reorganization to an integrated environmental management approach; some work and staff were transferred to the field
- NC: PPA/PPG allowed resources to be shared across media lines so that North Carolina could pursue a multi-media inspection project for metal finishing plants
- UT: EPA, Utah, and a local health agency partnered to address drinking water problems in small communities

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- **Enabled workload to be divided more efficiently between Federal and State agencies**

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- CT: EPA program staff work two days a week in the State office on air and waste programs
- IL: Illinois will conduct fewer RCRA inspections in exchange for directing more resources to compliance assistance; EPA will conduct the remaining inspections
- WI: In a work-sharing arrangement, Wisconsin air program staff will focus on permits while EPA fills in on some inspections
- OR: Two EPA program staff helped Oregon identify and remediate heavily polluted waters
- R10: EPA agreed to a division of work with Washington and Oregon to address the impacts of forestry in the Pacific Northwest; the States will focus on State and private lands, while EPA will work with Federal land management agencies

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- **Increased focus on environmental results and program effectiveness**

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- FL: Quarterly performance measurement and tracking system are used to identify "watch" and "focus" areas; poor compliance rates at petroleum storage tanks and shellfish plants were addressed through education and training as well as increased inspections
- MN: Minnesota's new integrated organization structure allows linking, tracking, and measuring agency activities with environmental results; the approach is aided by PPA and EPA working relationship
- NH: Data on a large backlog of complaints led to new resources from the Governor, reallocated resources, and temporary staff to help close out old cases
- NH: EPA is helping New Hampshire develop a new database for regular tracking and reporting of environmental measures and for linking the measures with goals, priorities, program activities, personnel, and budgets.
- NH: EPA's enforcement office is funding New Hampshire to analyze the effectiveness of its "partial" RCRA inspection model and the effectiveness of a compliance and pollution prevention initiative for the automotive service and auto body repair sectors.
- R1 Through New England Environmental Goals and Indicators Partnership (NEGIP), EPA and States are building the capacity to develop and use the most relevant environmental indicators for decision-making and reporting environmental conditions to the public

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- **Improved coordination of compliance and enforcement efforts**

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- FL: Based on assessment of environmental problems, inspections of NPDES majors were cut back by 30 percent in exchange for focusing greater attention to minors
- MA: The Massachusetts compliance strategy was reduced from 39 lines and 12 columns of information in FY 1998 to 13 lines of data in FY 2000
- IL: EPA holds an annual meeting with Illinois to share information on compliance and enforcement issues as well as pending and potential enforcement cases in order to avoid surprises and coordinate efforts
- MN: A pilot "Enforcement Response Plan" establishes joint expectations and procedures for the State enforcement program in return for a commitment by EPA Region 5 to evaluate the program a whole rather than on a case-by-case basis
- R 8: EPA and States are developing an audit protocol for enforcement programs in each media; the ratings will be the basis for discussing the State's enforcement programs and ways to improve weak areas

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- **Fostered reduced reporting burden and improved information management**

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- MD: After review of program and grant requirements in 17 programs, an EPA-Maryland work group concluded that no further reductions were needed in some programs and recommended several reductions in water grant reporting and electronic exchange of information in the air program
- IL: At Illinois' request, EPA developed an inventory of reporting requirements; EPA and Illinois then agreed on which of these reporting requirements are necessary
- IL: Illinois will consolidate reporting on its quality system in its PPA self-assessment report beginning in FY 2001 instead of creating a separate reporting system
- OH: The requirement for Ohio to submit an annual report describing how the State manages hazardous waste producers' and transporters' import notifications was eliminated; Ohio now merely forwards copies of the actual documents as the material is received
- OK: Oklahoma has reduced reporting for 70% of its NPDES dischargers using EPA criteria that allows facilities with good compliance records to report less frequently
- R 5: Through a State-EPA work group, test projects are underway to reduce the frequency of RCRA import reports, address multiple reports required under appendices in the air program, combine quality management planning and reports with the PPA, streamline Superfund program management reports, and modify the RCRA Biennial Reporting System.
- R 10: Grant work plans have been streamlined; they are now 3 to 4 pages long, compared to 40 or 50 pages in the past

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- **Fostered public understanding of and engagement in environmental matters**

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- GA: Key EPA and Georgia program managers held an open house where stakeholders could learn about Georgia's proposed priorities, provide comments, and discuss issues
- IL: Illinois issues an annual *Environmental Conditions Report* and holds workshops with stakeholders to discuss priorities and other issues associated with the PPA
- MD: Maryland has conducted a series of public workshops on proposed environmental indicators and priorities